MATTER RAISED WITH PERMISSION OF CHAIR
DISINVESTMENT OF HPCL AND BPCL

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, yesterday, when the hon. Minister for Disinvestment made a statement on privatisation of two nationalised concerns; the HPCL and the BPCL, I had sought a clarification with regard to the legality of these measures, considering that both these companies were originally acquired through Acts of Parliament. Sir, I would, once again request the hon. Minister to give us an assurance that this matter has been discussed with the Attorney-General of India. We, of course, would like the Attorney-General to come here and tell us what is the correct legal position. If the Government could clarify its position, we would be very grateful.

THE MINISTER FOR DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION AND THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): Sir, I will be completely candid. I had tried to put forward the points yesterday, but because of the developments in the House, they could not be put forward. The Attorney-General was not here on Sunday: I tried to contact him. He came only on Sunday night.' I have, therefore, talked to the Solicitor-General, and what I conveyed yesterday was what the Solicitor-General had told me. But because of the anxieties that have been expressed by several hon. Members, I will seek the opinion of the Attorney-General and report back to the House.

श्री सभापति : स्पेशल मेंशन। श्री हरीश रावत।

प्रो. राम देव भंडारी (बिहार) **:** मान्यवर, उत्तरी बिहार में ....

श्री सभापति : अब उत्तरी बिहार का तो मैं एलाऊ नहीं करूंगा। ...(व्यवधान)... आप किस रूल में कोट करना चाहते हैं ? ....(व्यवधान)... No; this will not go on record. *...(Interruptions)...*

SPECIAL MENTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Harish Rawat. He is not present. Shri Motilal Vora.

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* Not recorded.